(b) if so, whether the State Government has sought the help of Central Government to tackle the naxal menace;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) There has been an increase in the incidents in naxal violence in West Bengal during the current year. Following the violence in Lalgarh, 17 companies (Coys) of CRPF, 7 Coys of BSF and 4 teams of CoBRA have been additionally provided to the Government of West Bengal to assist in their anti-naxal operations. During 2008-09, Rs.32.18 crore was released as Central share under the Scheme for Modernization of Police Forces (MPF).

The Central Government also provides assistance to the State Governments, *Inter alia* through sanction of India Reserve (IR) battalions, assistance in training of State Police through Ministry of Defence, Central Police Organisations and Bureau of Police Research and Development and sharing of intelligence. The Central Government also assists the State Government development works through a range of schemes of different Central Ministries.

The CPI (Maoist), which is the major Left Wing Extremist organization responsible for most of the incidents and casualties of naxal violence in the country has been included in the schedule of terrorist organizations along with all its formations and front organizations on 22nd June, 2009, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Demand from Russia for relaxing visa rules

†662. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has directed to strictly abide by the visa rules to check the arrival of disguised extremists and terrorists on business and professional visa;

(b) whether this has created a hurdle for arrival of such people who were engaged in special works and projects or who are coming in near future;

(c) whether Government of Russia has demanded for relaxation in these rules; and

(d) whether any action is under consideration in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) It has come to the notice of the Government that a number of foreign nationals coming for execution of projects/contracts in India have come on Business Visa instead of the Employment Visa. The matter has, therefore, been reviewed by the Government and has been decided that

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

henceforth Business Visa will be issued only to bonafide businessmen who want to visit India to establish or to explore possibilities to set up an industrial/business venture in India or who want to purchase/sell industrial products or commercial products or consumer durables etc. It has also been decided that all foreign nationals coming for execution of projects/contracts in India will have to come only on an Employment Visa and that such vise will be granted only to skilled and qualified professional appointed at senior level, skilled position such as technical expert, senior executive or in a managerial position etc. and will not be granted for jobs for which a large number of qualified Indians are available. Suitable instruction/guidelines have been issued to the Indian Missions abroad to effectively regulate Employment and Business Visa regimes and ensure that these are issued strictly as per prescribed norms. Foreign nationals who are not on appropriate visa in the country have been directed to exit by 31.10.2009 (extendable for a short period in respect of some foreign nationals engaged in some strategic/sensitive projects) and where permissible, seek re-entry on appropriate visa.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Foreign nationals, including Russian nationals, who are on Business Visas and engaged in some strategic/sensitive projects have been granted extension on their Business Visas till 30.11.2009. It has also been decided to convert their Business Visas into Employment Visas as a special case.

Damage due to floods in Goa

663. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were sudden floods in Goa in the month of October with water rising to 5 to 6 metres in several parts of Canacona Taluka in South Goa District;

(b) whether exact cause of these floods have been identified by any scientific body;

(c) if so, the details of the cause or causes so identified;

(d) the total loss caused to human life, to the agricultural properties, dwelling houses, other properties etc.;

(e) the quantum of compensation paid so far;

(f) the percentage of quantum *vis-a-vis* the actual damage caused to the victims; and

(g) the amount sanctioned by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (g) There were flash floods in the Canacona taluk in South Goa district on 2nd October 2009. In order to identify the causes behind the said flood, the Government of Goa constituted a Canacona Flash Floods Study Committee. The Committee carried out a study with the help of a team set up at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO). The Committee inferred that the flash floods in Canacona were directly related to about